



# Ellington Primary School



News Bulletin #9

**28th January 2022**

Dear Parents/Carers,

We have had another busy two weeks in school with so much happening!

Covid-19 remains a problem in and out of school. We have had numerous positive cases over the last two weeks, however, numbers have thankfully fallen this week. If your child is off school with Covid, but is well enough to do work, they will be sent work via ClassDojo. It is so important that the children continue to work at home, if they can.

## ClassDojo

Over 80% of the school are now connected to ClassDojo. We are beginning to use this more than any other form of communication with parents/carers, so please connect if you haven't already. Those not connected, may miss important information.



## PTA

On Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February, the PTA met to discuss plans for the Spring and Summer terms. After a hugely successful Autumn term, despite Covid, the PTA raised a huge amount of money which is enough to support the development of our library. The new focus for Spring and Summer is developing our Early Years provision.

We have provisionally planned some whole school events including World Book Month, an Easter Egg hunt, a Jubilee family picnic and Summer Fair! More details of each event will be given in future news bulletins. The dates for these events have been added to the diary dates. In Autumn, the PTA volunteered to come into school on Saturday mornings and helped to tidy the outdoor area and repaint the yard markings. In February, they are looking for support to come and paint areas inside the school. Dates and times will be shared shortly and all help would be appreciated.

## The Sword in the Stone

On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March, we have a travelling production company coming into school to perform The Sword and the Stone. They will deliver a workshop to all of the children before selecting up to ten children to then take part in the interactive performance. I am sure this will be a huge hit with the children.



## Residential Trips

We have managed to secure residential trips for our Year 4 and Year 6 classes for summer term. I know the children have missed out on these experiences in recent years, so I am sure they can't wait to go.

All classes will be going on trips in Spring and Summer term. Again, I am aware that many children have not experienced school trips in recent years so teachers are currently planning trips linked to the children's topics.



## PE Kits

Thank you for all of your orders for the school PE kits, the children look fantastic. We are aware of some sizing issues. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any problems you may have. Our second subsidised order is going on January 31<sup>st</sup>, so please complete an order form if you would like a kit.

Our new PE kit rules are:

- Children should wear their PE t-shirt under their school jumper or a plain navy hoodie. Hoodies with a school badge embroidered and Team Ellington printed on them, will also be available to purchase from Cloud 9 Leisure. However, these are optional. They are definitely not compulsory.
- Children can wear plain black/navy joggers/tracksuit bottoms. They can wear shorts underneath or just shorts in warmer weather.
- Trainers can be worn on PE days.
- I appreciate not all children have ordered a new PE kit. For those children, they can continue to wear their house colour T-shirt (or a plain white T-shirt) under their school jumper or a navy hoodie, along with black/navy joggers/tracksuit bottoms.
- Children cannot wear other clothing than stated above on their PE days.
- The children can bring an additional hoodie/tracksuit top to wear for PE if they wish. This should be brought in a bag to school and not worn during the day.
- The kit does not need to be worn for extra-curricular activities after school. The kit is for PE lessons, competitions, sports day etc.

Best Wishes,

Mr Hodgson  
Headteacher

# Class News!

## Nursery

In Nursery we have started our new topic 'Amazing Animals!' Last week we came into our classroom and found an egg in a nest on the floor. We made lots of guesses about what could be in the egg, lots of us thought it might have been a dinosaur or a chicken! When we came into school the next morning it had hatched and we found a baby penguin sticking out, the children were so excited about our new friend. We talked about where penguins live, which other animals live there and looked at a map which showed us where the cold places are on earth. We decided if we went to these places we would need our hats, scarves, gloves and coats but we'd never seen animals wearing these things and that is because they have fur and blubber to keep them warm. We did a science experiment to show us how the blubber works to keep the cold out and it was so much fun!

This week we have received a letter from a safari guide named Sam who told us that a lion was on the loose in Ellington! We weren't scared so we grabbed our binoculars and magnifying glasses and went on a lion hunt. We looked all over the school grounds and peeked through the school fence to make sure he wasn't in the park! We eventually found him in the wildlife garden and wrote a letter to Sam to ask him to come and pick the lion up as quickly as he could. Our letter must have worked because when we went back to the wildlife garden there was no sign of the lion.

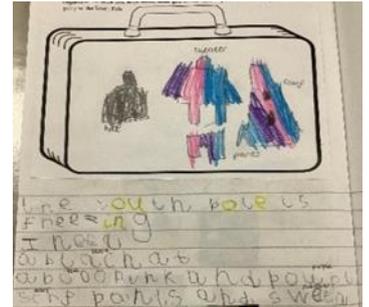
In maths, we have been looking at using our subitising skills to count quickly in our heads. Miss Nicholson was trying to catch us out but we were too good to be tricked! We have also been matching quantities and numerals.

In our outside area we have enjoyed creating a slide to send the balls down using guttering. We worked together to build it and found that if we moved it up the ball slid down faster! We then made it into a game where we could score points for landing in zones.



## Reception

It has been another exciting two weeks in Reception. We have been continuing our learning of Lost and Found by Oliver Jeffers. We all retold the story in our own words and Miss Robinson was super impressed at how much of the story we could remember. We found out that penguins come from the South Pole, so we have been doing lots of different activities about the South Pole. We looked on a map and a globe to see where the South Pole is and then compared it to where we live. We thought about the things that we would need to take if we were going on a journey to the South Pole. We drew pictures and did some fantastic writing, we also made a penguin craft out of tubes, paint and different art materials.



In Maths we have been super busy. Last week we did lots of activities, we used the weighing scales to compare some of the different items in our class to see which was heavy and which was light. We also experimented with water and cups to measure capacity of empty, nearly empty, nearly full and full. Another activity was using soil and different sized pots to identify which pot had the most and which pot had the least amount of soil. One of our favourite activities was measuring lots of different ingredients and as a class we made some play-doh. This week in Maths we have been exploring the composition of number 6, 7 and 8 as well as sorting and matching the numbers.



Miss Robinson is very proud of the dancing that the children have done in PE so far this half term. The children have shown fantastic concentration and can remember the different dance moves. Our favourite dance is Sky Full of Stars by Coldplay.



## Year 1

Year 1 have worked very hard. They have enjoyed listening to messages from Morris Mole all about his journey home. We have been taking it in turns to tell the story to our friends. We had great fun doing drama in the hall. We took turns, working in pairs to be Morris and the other character. We had animal masks and rehearsed the dialogue between the characters. We especially liked it when Morris was being chased at the end. We were excellent at recalling the dialogue and completed speech bubbles. We included question marks, exclamation marks and apostrophes. We have been learning them with fun games from Kung Fu Punctuation. We have been writing down his story using time conjunctions to help sequence the events along the way. Then Mrs. Mole asked if we could help to write instructions for Morris to find his way home so that she could include them in a letter for him to keep in his pocket. Jaxon was fantastic as Morris and kept us all concentrating on what instructions were very essential to include. Most importantly to avoid the Lionel the Lion's jaws!

We have been working really well in our RWI phonic groups and will be starting a reading challenge with bookmarks and stickers as an incentive to read at home to our family. If you sign to say we have read at home we will receive a sticker. We also promote the love of reading through lots of story time and really value it when children share experiences about the stories that they enjoy at home. We have been fantastic at listening to James and the Giant Peach and like the idea of having picture books and chapter books to share.

We enjoyed starting our DT topic titled Taxi. We had to find out about wheels, axles and the chassis. We began by trying to push a box of books but found it very tricky. Then we realised it would be better if we could use something with wheels on underneath the box.



Mr. Robinson was the man to ask and he let us investigate his trolley. We were amazed at how easy it was to move the box of books with the help of the trolley. We then tried out the bikes and scooters on the big yard and looked for the wheels, axle and the chassis. We put labels on different wheeled objects. Our next part of the project is to create our own model of a moving taxi. Joe brought some fantastic photographs into school of the old car his Grandad had renovated. We were very good at listening to Joe telling us all about them and about his trip to the car shows. We spotted the wheels, axle and chassis on the old car.

## Year 1 Cont.

Our geography topic is Bright Lights Big City. This week we also looked at a map of the UK and talked about the different capital cities we could see. We played stations outside and ran to the different capital cities. Please can you try to help us to learn them for next week?

The lesson then looked at living in a big city and we talked about the difference about living in a city and a village. We liked watching William Whiskerson on BBC teach when he went to visit London. We loved sharing our stories about visiting a capital city.

In our Maths lessons, we have been learning about counting backwards along a number line to help us work out subtraction problems. We made a number line with Numicon and used it to help count backwards.



Thank you everyone for joining Class Dojo we will be using this to record our house points.

## Year 2

In English, we have continued exploring our class book *The Tin Forest*. We have been using our new writing toolkits to write a captivating setting description. We've also worked together as a class to retell the story and compare and contrast it to another adventure story- *The Whale Song*. We found many similarities and are going to use our knowledge of adventure stories to write our own narrative.

In maths, we have had fun practical lessons making and adding equals groups. We have worked extra hard this week as we have moved onto division, children initially found this a little tricky to begin with but they have all persevered and used their practical equipment and knowledge of equal groups to help them.

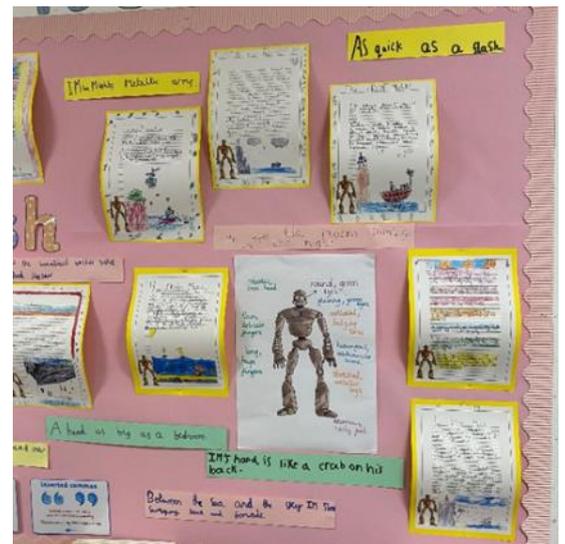
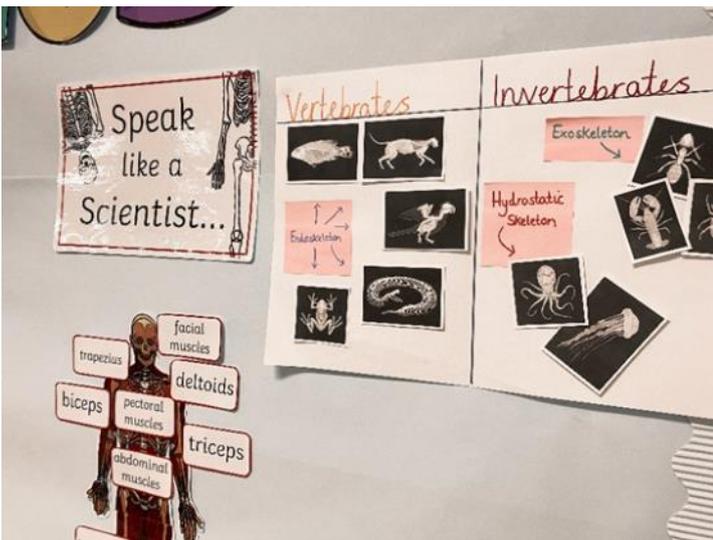
Year 2 are really enjoying their new Geography topic, 'Coastline', we have been taking a closer look at our coastline and learning about erosion. Children were amazed to see how erosion takes place and how it changes our landscape. They completed fantastic diagrams of headlands and the sea undercutting. In science, we have begun to explore the properties of materials and discuss why certain materials are more suitable to use depending on their use. Children are really enjoying their dance lessons where they have been learning a superhero routine.



## Year 3

Year 3 have done a fantastic job composing their own narrative about The Iron Man. Over the last two weeks, they have focused on using a range of language features for description when writing in role, such as imagery and emotional language. They have used their description toolbox to draft, edit and present their own writing. Look how brilliant their final write-ups look up in our classroom!

In Year 3, we have been diving into our new science topic! We have been grouping and comparing different types of skeletons in animals. We have been learning lots of new vocabulary to help us all speak like scientists!



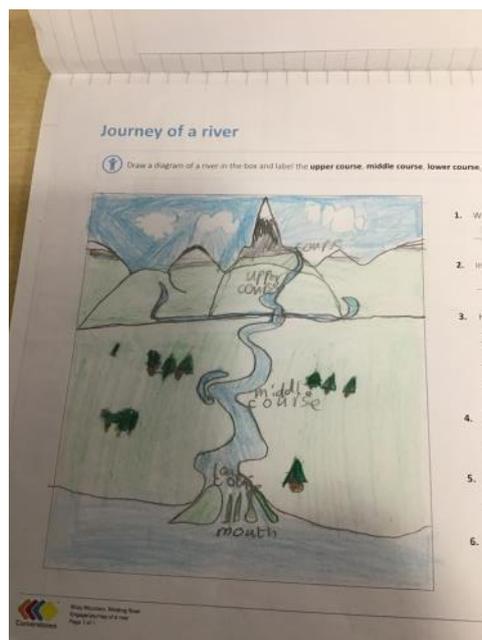
In RE, Year 3 enjoyed having a debate about whether miracles exist or not by exploring the story of Jesus walking on water. The children created arguments to persuade others to join their side of the debate!

Some of our Year 3's enjoyed making macramé rainbows in craft club this week! They chose their own colour design to make their very own unique wall hanging. This wasn't easy to do and their rainbows turned out amazing - well done you lot!



## Year 4

Yet another busy two weeks! In English, we have been thoroughly enjoying our class book, *The Boy that Grew Dragons*. I mean, who wouldn't want to grow dragons and of course the dragons just had to get up to a little bit of mischief, as well as having poo that exploded! We've been learning about emotive language, present perfect form of verbs, rhetorical questions, conjunctive adverbs, relative clauses and using imperatives within a sentence! All quite bogging but we are getting there. Last week we wrote some wonderful diary entries that were full of emotive language, this week we've just finished writing letters to Grandad telling him how to look after Flicker the dragon. In maths last week, we consolidated our understanding of measure and this week we've tried our hands at measuring angles - tricky little tinkers some of them! In our wonderful topic *Misty Mountains Winding Rivers*, we have learnt about the different sections of a river and drawn some beautiful illustrations. In science, we have been learning all about evaporation, condensation, melting and freezing. RE has had us having some fantastic discussions about whether they thought Jesus could perform miracles and what the Bible is trying to tell us when we look at stories such as Jesus walking on water. In computing, we have been using a fabulous program that allowed us to input data on temperature which was then represented in a bar graph. As you will see from the photo, the French Alps looks like a very chilly place - brrrr! We continue with our fabulous cornet lessons and everyone can get a sound out of them - not always pretty though. In French, we recapped on body parts and this week we looked at words for weather - neige being the favourite (that's snow to me and you). In Art, we tried our hands at drawing landscapes. We looked at contour lines and how to bring perspective into our drawings; I'm sure you'll agree the results were brilliant! Bikeability was a huge hit; the children thoroughly enjoyed their time with the instructors and there was a couple of little poppets that felt very unsure about riding a bike but conquered that and whizzed around the MUGA. The children should be very proud of themselves as they have worked tirelessly!



# Year 4 cont.



## Year 5

In year 5 we have been able to do a lot of practical activities in the last couple of weeks, and have been showing excellent collaborative and discussion skills through these lessons.

As part of our 'Sow, Grow and Farm' topic, we have been investigating why birds lay eggs in science, which involved closely examining real eggs and discussing their structure.



In DT, we have been learning how to prepare vegetables by peeling and chopping ingredients which we turned into carrot and cumin soup.



In computing, you may have seen the videos on Class Dojo of the algorithms that we were able to turn into code, to program motors and multi colour LEDs to work in certain ways. We are working towards creating our own models with lights and moving parts in future weeks; watch this space!

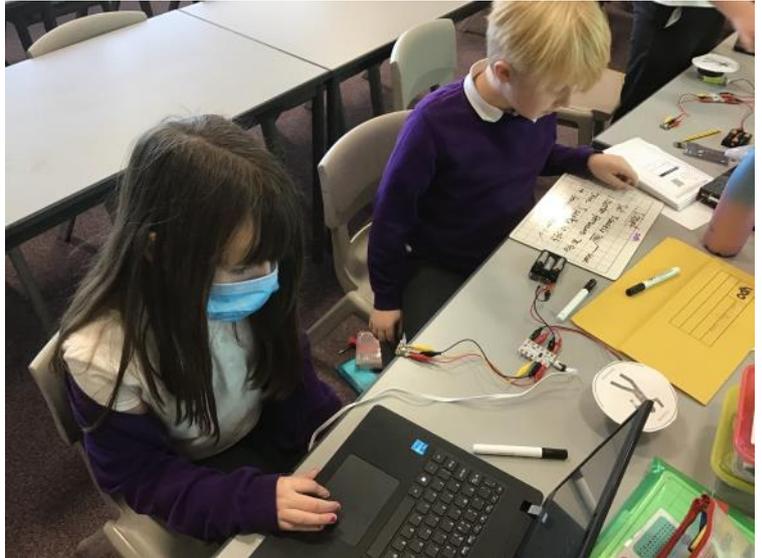
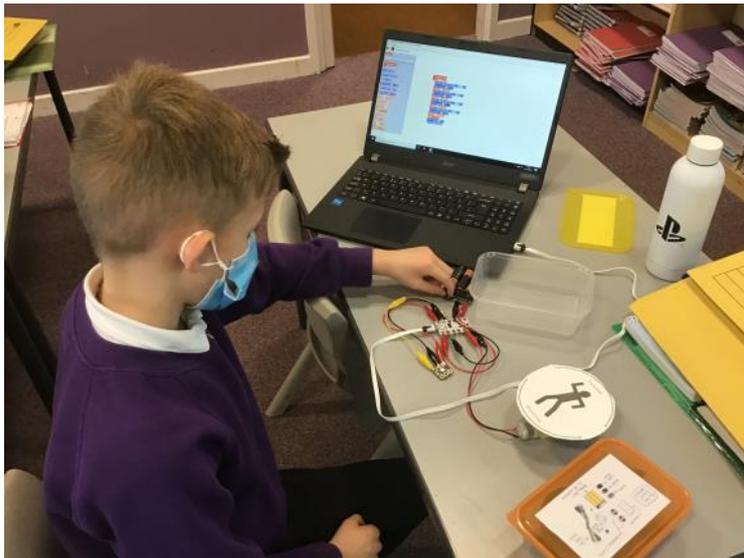
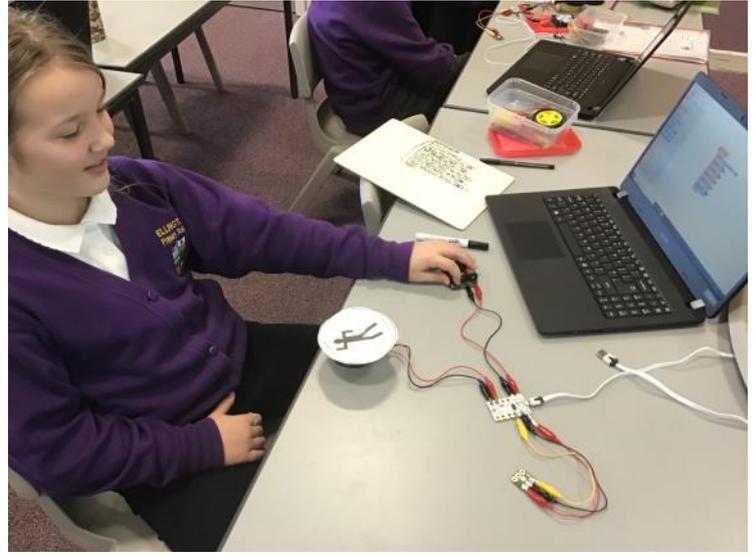
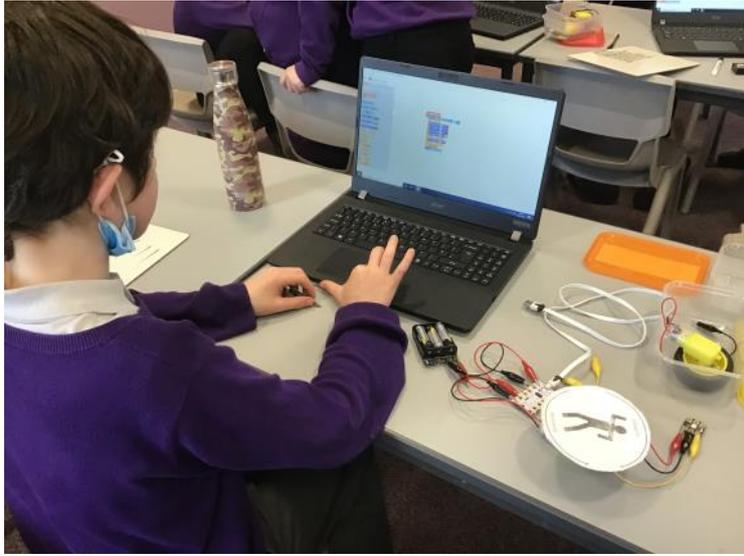
We are continuing to develop our skills in shading during art lessons, experimenting with different kinds of shading as well as various materials, including India Ink, different sized marker pens and pencils of varying softness.

We are still working hard in maths and English lessons as well. We have just started a new unit on fractions in maths, and in English we have been creating non-chronological reports about orang-utans linked with our work on Kensuke's Kingdom.

Mrs Richardson has been so impressed with our ability to play musical instruments along with the Adele track 'Make You Feel My Love' in music lessons; we have even been able to include as many as 4 different notes while playing glockenspiels together, and hopefully some of us can progress onto playing the melodies on recorders as well.

All of this combined with swimming, PSHE, French, Geography and more has created a busy couple of weeks, but we have learnt so much!

# Year 5 cont.

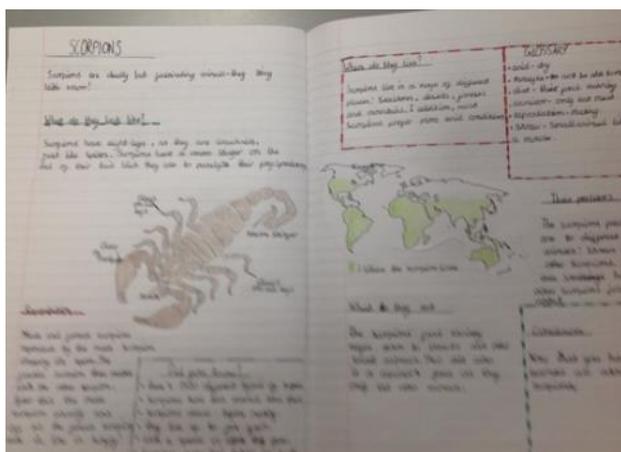
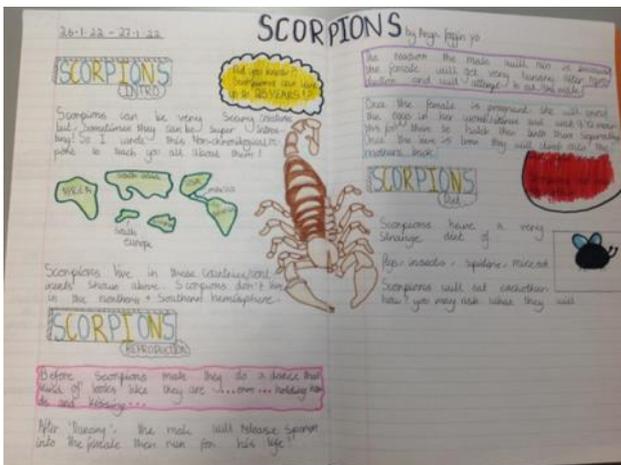
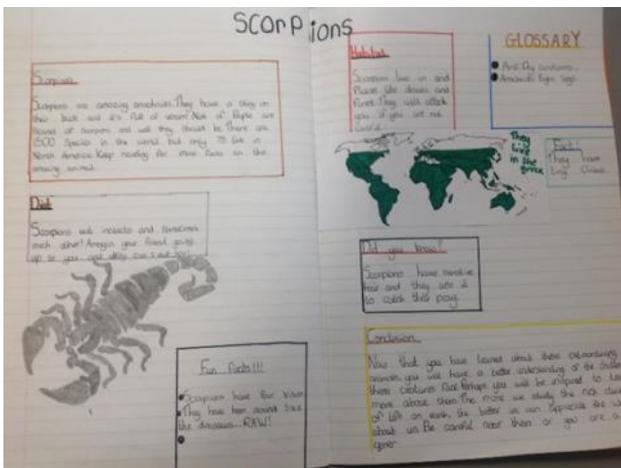


# Year 6

These last two weeks we have been learning more about our topic, the polar regions, focussing particularly on the Arctic Ocean and the Southern Ocean. In art, we have been studying the art of the Inuit - their sketches, based on the natural world about them, and also their carvings. We attempted to imitate their style, in sketching and in carving Arctic animals out of soap. The soap carving proved to be quite a tricky business, and the results were somewhat mixed.

In science we researched how batteries work. In RE we have been studying Sikhism. In PE they are continuing to learn about dance. In French we have been learning about shopping - the names of shops, and how to say where shops are in relation to each other.

In English we have continued to read 'Holes' by Louis Sachar. The children are certainly enjoying the book. They have been writing their own non-chronological reports on 'Scorpions', as these creatures feature in the book.



## Cookery Club

Another two weeks of bashing biscuits! Last week, we made scrumptious Biscoff bars. Crushing of biscuits and a little bit of whisking in sugar, Biscoff spread and butter then smothering the lot with chocolate - divine! Week two - what a calamity! We were only making lemon cheesecakes but what a disaster! The tin opener broke so we thought we were doomed but two school superheroes descended into the classroom when they heard Mrs Rusby wailing for a tin opener; tins opened super quick but by then the cream cheese had been whisked to death! Hopefully the sloppy messes that left the classroom set in the fridge! Fabulous photos of Biscoff bars but alas no time prevailed for the lemon cheesecakes! More fun next week!



## Diary Dates

<u>Event</u>	<u>Date</u>
Break up for February half term	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> February
Return to school	Monday 28 <sup>th</sup> February
World Book Day	Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March
<b>The Sword in the Stone Performance</b>	<b>Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March</b>
Red Nose Day	Friday 18 <sup>th</sup> March
Parents Afternoon	Wednesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> March
<b>Easter Egg Hunt (EYFS)</b>	<b>Friday 8<sup>th</sup> April</b>
Break up for Easter Holidays	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> April
Return to school	Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> April
KS2 (Year 6) SATS	Monday 9 <sup>th</sup> - Thursday 12 <sup>th</sup> May
<b>Queen's Platinum Jubilee Family Picnic</b>	<b>Friday 27<sup>th</sup> May</b>
Break up for May half term	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> May
Additional Bank Holiday due to Queen's Jubilee	Monday 6 <sup>th</sup> June
Return to school	Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> June
Year 4 Multiplication Tests	WB Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> June
Year 6 Residential	Wednesday 15 <sup>th</sup> - Friday 17 <sup>th</sup> June
Year 4 Residential	Wednesday 22 <sup>nd</sup> - Friday 24 <sup>th</sup> June
Sports Week	Monday 27 <sup>th</sup> June - Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> July
Sports Day	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> July
<b>Summer Fair</b>	<b>Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> July</b>
End of Year Reports	Friday 15 <sup>th</sup> July
Year 6 Leavers Assembly	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> July
Break up for summer	Friday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July

**New events appear in red.**

Please note that we will be adding many more events to the calendar over the coming weeks and months.